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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/631,909	07/31/2003	Gary K. Kuhn	56295US004	9634
32692	7590	02/17/2004	EXAMINER	
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY PO BOX 33427 ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			GRAY, LINDA LAMEY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1734	

DATE MAILED: 02/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/631,909	KUHN 
	Examiner Linda L Gray	Art Unit 1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2003 and 17 November 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                  2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 31 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) All b) Some \* c) None of:  
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____   |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**Detailed Action**

**Specification**

- 1.** The disclosure is objected to because of the following informality: reference to the parent application at page 1, lines 9-10, should be updated to include the patent number.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112**

- 2.** The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

- 3. Claims 8 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.**

**Claims 8 and 18** are indefinite when indicating that the tape is applied to the glass surface when the first and second lengths of tape are cut from the tape and applied to the glass surface.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

- 4.** The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless – (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

- 5. Claims 1-7 and 9-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reed (US 4,246,058).**

**Claim 1,** Reed teaches a method of applying tape 18 to a surface including the following steps:

- (a) providing the tape, wherein the tape includes a tape backing 12 and an adhesive 16 on the tape backing 12, and wherein the tape is on a liner 14;
- (b) cutting the tape to provide a first length of tape 18, a second length of tape 18, and a removable portion 20 of the tape located between the first length of tape 18 and the second length of tape 18;
- (c) removing the removable portion 20 of the tape from the liner 14;
- (d) separating the first length of tape 18 from the liner 14; and
- (e) applying the first length of tape 18 to the surface

(c 2, L 40-59).

**Claim 2,** Reed teaches separating the second length of tape 18 from the liner 14 and applying the second length of tape 18 to the surface. **Claims 3-6,** Reed teaches that the removable portion 18 includes a first end and a second end opposite the first end, and wherein step (b) includes cutting a portion of the first end of the removable portion at an angle oblique to the length of the tape, see Figures 1 and 11, for example, where at both the first and second ends of the removable portion 20 between the first and second lengths of tape 18 has curved portions (corners) which are oblique. The angles are less than 180 degrees.

**Claim 9,** the discussion of Reed applies herein. Note that Reed teaches winding the removable portions 20 onto a roll (Fig 6). Thus, the removable portions 20 are stacked upon each other via one layer of the roll upon another. Reed also teaches separating the second length of tape 18 from the liner 14 and applying the second length of tape 18 to the surface.

**Claims 10-17,** the above discussion of Reed applies herein.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

**6.** The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

**7. Claims 7 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed.**

*Claims 7 and 17, the first and second lengths of tape 18 are labels. Reed does not specifically recite that such contains indicia (decoration).*

However, it is conventional to have indicia on a tape which is later die cut into labels such that the print can be registered with the labels correctly, and for this reason it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided in Reed indicia on the tape.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

**8. Claims 8 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.**

**9.** The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: **claims 8 and 18**, Reed does not teach that the surface to which the first and second lengths of tape 18 are applied is glass and has the function of providing a simulated beveled appearance.

**10.** As allowable subject matter has been indicated, Applicants' duty must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

**Conclusion**

**11.** Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linda Gray whose telephone number is (571) 272-1228. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino, can be reached at (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

llg      lly  
February 9, 2004

Linda L Gray  
LINDA GRAY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER